

**JUSTICE JOHN PAUL STEVENS  
PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM  
SUMMER 2009**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009**

**FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM HISTORY**

In 1996, in honor of U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens (NUSL '47), Skip Paul, a friend of the law school, generously established the Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship Program. Mr. Paul, head of IFILM Network and former chairman and CEO of Sega Gameworks, served as Justice Stevens' law clerk first at the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and then at the United States Supreme Court.

Stevens Fellowships provide financial assistance to students who have secured volunteer public interest summer jobs. This year, four grants will be given, each in the amount of \$5,000.

**WHO MAY APPLY**

First- and second-year students who have secured a full-time (40 hours/wk for 10 weeks) volunteer summer law position with a public interest organization may apply. Qualifying employer organizations include legal services agencies and government offices (judicial externships do not qualify). Private sector "public interest" law firms will also be considered as qualifying employers as long as the position is unpaid and the firm provides a letter or other descriptive material that supports their "public interest" status.

All applicants will be asked to submit a letter from their employer confirming their summer position.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. *Strong* interest in a career in public interest or civil liberties work. The student does not need to be certain that he/she will ultimately pursue public interest work, but he/she must evidence *serious* consideration of such a career. In evaluating this criterion, a written statement by the student concerning his/her long-range professional goals and how this summer experience might fit in with a career in public interest is requested. A preference will be given to second year students with a strong commitment to public interest work over first year students.
2. Developing ability and strength in working with legal problems and materials. This criterion may be met in part by indications of successful academic performance in

law school courses, but it also may be demonstrated through other types of successful involvement in legal projects.

3. Financial need. Special consideration will be given to students with demonstrated financial need.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

**Submit the following materials to the Career Services Office by Monday, March 2 at 5:00.**

1. Resume.
2. Employer letter confirming full-time summer employment offer.
3. Personal Statement: Explain the type of work you will do and how this position will enable you to develop your legal skills. Describe the relevance of this position to your career goals. Also explain your commitment to public interest/civil liberties law. If applicable, include how past and/or present personal and public interest experiences (employment, government service, community and extra-curricular activities) reflect your commitment. Feel free to include any additional information you think will assist the committee in evaluating your commitment to public interest law.
4. Financial need information (see below). Note: The *Financial Need Information Form* asks for much of the same information as the SFPIF “Grant Request & Explanation” and “Financial Need Information” forms. If you are also completing a SPFIF application, you may submit a copy of those forms in lieu of the Stevens Financial Need Information form.
5. Law school transcript or other evidence of ability in working with legal problems.

